

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 33

**Introduced by Assembly Members Lieber, Sharon Runner, and
Liu**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chu, Garcia, and
Shirley Horton)**

(Coauthors: Senators Kehoe, Kuehl, and Morrow)

March 3, 2005

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 33—Relative to the Joint
Committee on Human Trafficking in California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 33, as introduced, Lieber. Joint Committee on Human
Trafficking in California.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee on Human
Trafficking in California, to study and investigate issues relating to
human trafficking, which would consist of 5 Assembly Members
appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and 5 Senators appointed
by the Senate Committee on Rules. The measure would prescribe the
duties of the committee, and would authorize the committee to act
until November 30, 2006.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is pervasive and damaging,
2 yet remains an unrecognized problem facing our country and our
3 state; and

4 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is present day slavery,
5 involving the recruitment, transportation, or sale of persons for
6 forced labor, and through the use of violence, threats, and
7 coercion, enslaved persons may be forced to work in the sex

1 trade, domestic labor, factories, hotels or restaurants, agriculture,
2 peddling, or begging; and

3 WHEREAS, The problem of human trafficking has reached
4 epic proportions, and is the fastest-growing criminal industry in
5 the world; and

6 WHEREAS, The federal government and several states
7 recognize the grave human rights, health, and security
8 implications of human trafficking in the United States and around
9 the world; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2000, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act
11 (22 U.S.C. Sec. 7101 et seq.) was enacted by the federal
12 government to “combat trafficking in persons, a contemporary
13 manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly
14 women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of
15 traffickers, and to protect their victims”; and

16 WHEREAS, In June 2004, the United States Department of
17 State reported that 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked
18 annually into the United States, having been bought, sold,
19 transported, and held in inhumane conditions for forced use as
20 prostitutes or laborers; and

21 WHEREAS, California’s port cities have received a
22 particularly high number of victims of trafficking brought over
23 for sexual slavery; and

24 WHEREAS, Women and children comprise the majority of
25 trafficking victims; the low social status of women in many parts
26 of the world facilitates a thriving trafficking industry; and

27 WHEREAS, International trafficking victims come
28 predominantly from Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe; in
29 their home countries, victims of trafficking commonly
30 experience poverty, oppression, persecution, bonded labor,
31 armed conflict, civil unrest, and lack of opportunity; and

32 WHEREAS, Domestically, drug and alcohol addicts, the
33 homeless, and runaways are prime targets of traffickers; and

34 WHEREAS, Members of these vulnerable populations are
35 actively recruited by traffickers, some of whom are connected to
36 organized crime, and trafficking recruiters often mislead victims
37 into believing that the opportunities recruiters offer will bring the
38 victims and their loved ones a better life; and

39 WHEREAS, Children are not safe from trafficking and
40 exploitation—victims of trafficking report children as young as

1 four years of age being sold into slavery, often for sexual
2 purposes—and in 2001, the United States Department of Justice
3 concluded that between 300,000 and 400,000 American children
4 are victims of sexual exploitation every year, many as young as
5 11 or 12 years of age, and some even younger; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to being forced to work as prostitutes,
7 farmworkers, or maids, victims of human trafficking live daily
8 with inhumane treatment, including physical violence,
9 psychological violence, sexual abuse, food deprivation, sleep
10 deprivation, threats to a victim's family, and destruction of a
11 victim's dignity and self-worth; and

12 WHEREAS, Traffickers also use techniques such as debt
13 bondage, isolation from the public, and confiscation of passports,
14 visas, or other pieces of identification, to keep victims enslaved;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
17 *thereof concurring,* That the Joint Committee on Human
18 Trafficking in California is hereby established; and be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Human Trafficking in
20 California shall consist of 10 members, who shall include five
21 Assembly Members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
22 and five Senators appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules;
23 and be it further

24 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Human Trafficking in
25 California shall be under the direction of an Assembly Chair,
26 appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and a Senate
27 Vice-Chair, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and be
28 it further

29 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Human Trafficking in
30 California shall study and investigate issues including, but not
31 limited to, the training of law enforcement agencies regarding
32 trafficking, education efforts on identifying trafficking victims,
33 the coordination among programs serving victims of trafficking,
34 the development of culturally appropriate services, and obtaining
35 better data regarding the number of victims and their locations,
36 especially children; and be it further

37 *Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Human Trafficking in
38 California shall submit a report to the Legislature on September
39 30, 2006, including its findings and recommendations; and be it
40 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Human Trafficking in
- 2 California is authorized to act until November 30, 2006.

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